(b) whether there would be any modification in the present concept of fixing Mininum Support Price for foodgrains;

(c) whether there is any plan to involve private trade in food procurement alongwith cooperatives and other organizational bodies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government of India has constituted a High Level Committee (HLC) to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen the former Chairman of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. The final report of the HLC is expected in May, 2002. The recommendations made by the HLC will be duly examined and the new grain policy formulated expeditiously.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Formulation of a Long-term Grain Policy

2686. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level Committee for formulating a long term grain policy for the country has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, whether Government had approved its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.